

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF REPRINTS.

New York, August 18, 1903.

To the Editor:—My attention has been called to a reprint of my article on "Anesthol" (which appeared in the *Journal* February 28 and March 7, 1903), made and circulated by Messrs. Lehn & Fink, a wholesale drug firm of New York. These reprints were made entirely without my knowledge. I promptly wrote to Messrs. Lehn & Fink, asking for an explanation. The answer I received from them was most unsatisfactory, carefully avoiding the point at issue: "Lack of my (the author's) consent for making the reprints," and not even offering an apology for their conduct.

I can but protest against the method adopted by this firm, viz., using a scientific article for commercial purposes without securing the writer's consent prior to their doing so. I need not assure you that had they asked me beforehand I would have refused their proposition most emphatically. Is there no way of protecting a professional man against such abuses?

WILLY MEYER.

Note—Everything printed in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is copyrighted, and no one has a right to reprint any of its contents without permission, consequently Lehn & Fink are liable to prosecution for violating the copyright laws. It is to prevent just such occurrences as this that the *Journal* goes to the expense of copyrighting all of its contents, and such a violation of law and the rights and privileges of others, we are happy to say, seldom occurs.—*Journal A. M. A.*

(Will the *Journal A. M. A.* be good enough to advise us whether Lehn & Fink have been prosecuted for their infraction of the law?—Ed.)

NEW PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

On August 20th, the new laboratory was dedicated at Berkeley. The dedicatory address was delivered by Professor Wilhelm Ostwald of Leipzig, whose subject was "The Relation of Biology to the Neighboring Sciences." Professor Jacques Loeb spoke on "The Limitations of Biological Research."

The laboratory was built through the generosity of Mr. Rudolph Spreckels of San Francisco and was equipped by Mr. Spreckels and Dr. Herzstein. The laboratory consists of a central building and two wings. The left wing is devoted exclusively to the use of students. A large lecture-room and two well-lighted laboratories afford ample accommodations. The right wing is occupied by the aquarium, engine room, thermostat room, and a number of small rooms for research work. The central building is devoted entirely to the use of instructors and investigators. Besides the private rooms, a large number of which are located on each floor, there are several which are devoted to more general ends. On the lower floor are a large store room for apparatus, a balance room, a galvanometer room, a microscopical room, and the library of the department. On the second floor are a dark room and the rooms for physics and chemistry.

The staff consists of Professor Loeb and Drs. Fischer, Bancroft, MacCallum, Bullot and Rogers.

CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

The next International Congress of Ophthalmology will be held at Lucerne, Switzerland, on September 19th, 20th and 21st, 1904. A radical change in medi-

cal congresses is to be introduced, and the plan promises to remove the great objection to such meetings—the long, tiresome papers on subjects about which it is to be assumed every person in attendance is well informed. All those intending to present papers at the Congress must send them in to the committee before the 1st of May, 1904. The committee will then go over them, and such as are accepted will be printed. This volume of printed papers will be sent in advance of the meeting to each person who has paid his fee. At the time of the meeting these papers will not be read, but they will be discussed. In this way the matter of the paper is presented to all, they may read it at leisure, and they can come to the Congress fully prepared to intelligently discuss the questions presented by the writer. "We thus hope to hear the opinions of experienced men who have not the time to write and publish their experiences and opinions. The discussions will be printed and will form the second part of the official report which will be sent to each member after the close of the Congress."

"We propose only one official subject to determine which the great authority of a Congress appears to be particularly necessary. Subject: To settle the question of indemnity as regards the value of an eye, lost or injured." Profs. Axenfeld (of Freiburg), Sulzer (of Paris) and Wurdemann (of Milwaukee) are to draw up a report on this subject, which will be the first thing discussed. The correspondent of the Congress for the United States is Dr. Geo. De Schweinitz, 1401 Locust street, Philadelphia, and from him any further information may be secured.

Pure Food Law is Working.—Dr. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, stated recently that of 205 cargoes of imported food inspected by his bureau since the law authorizing the exclusion of impure foods went into effect on July 1st last, 20 samples, or 10 per cent, has been found to come within the law's inhibition, and had been condemned. Of these 20 samples 5 were Rhine wine containing salicylic acid, 2 white wines containing sulphurous acid, 4 olive oil containing cotton-seed oil and being misbranded, 3 frankfurter sausage containing preservatives injurious to health, 4 canned vegetables covered with lead tops in contact with the food, 1 vinegar which was misbranded and made of distilled alcohol, and 1 of coloring matter for foods, coal-tar dyes being used. Of the remaining 185 cargoes 167 have been released and 18 are still under examination. The owners of some of the condemned cargoes have asked for time to present additional proof of purity, and it has been granted. Professor George F. Colby, of the University of California, has been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to make examination of foreign food products received at Pacific Coast ports. The purpose of the appointment is to avoid the expenses of shipping goods across the continent for inspection.

To Properly Educate Children.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox advocates the education of children before they are born. The curriculum does not include the higher mathematics, but is nevertheless important and extensive. Expectant mothers, says Mrs. Wilcox, should spend the period of their gestation in art galleries, academies of design, musical emporia and in colleges where hygiene and dietetics are expounded along strictly scientific lines. Above all, expectant mothers should be protected from the usual irritating and antagonizing influences of relatives.—*Col. Med. Journal.*